Folksongs and Folklore of Ybor City

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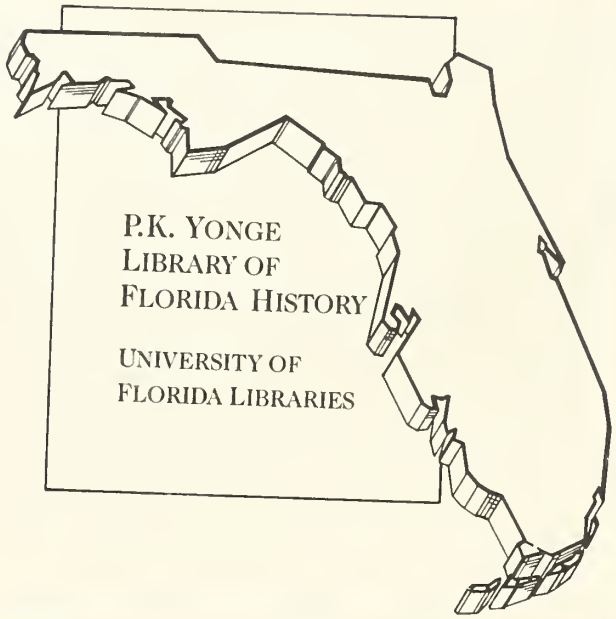
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Folksongs and Folklore of Ybor City

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Florida - Folklore - Ybor City

Wayne A. Blossom
April 1941
Tampa, Florida.

FOLKLORE OF YBOR CITY

MARIGOLD (DEATH FLOWER)

The Marigold flower, or "death flower" is in itself a bad omen; and more so, if it is carried as an ornament on the dress or on the hair. To the superstitious person, there exists the belief that it will bring misfortune because it is called "death flower" and not "life flower".

If a "flor de muerto" (Marigold flower) is taken into the house or worn by a person, a misfortune will be cast upon that house or person.

This superstition was brought to Ybor City from Cuba.

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Tampa Florida
March 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne Blosson

GREEDINESS DOES NOT PAY

Once there was an old man cleaning the front steps of a church and he found a penny.

He did not know what to buy with the penny. He thought,- if I buy an apple I will have to throw the skin away, if I buy a peach I will have to throw the seed away and if I buy a pear I will have to throw away the stem, so he decided to buy peas..

He bought a bag of peas for half a cent and laid it against the fence while finishing his work but along came a rooster and ate the peas. When he noticed that the rooster had finished with his peas he went to the owner of the rooster and told him that the rooster had eaten his peas and he would either have to give him back the money or the rooster. But as the owner of the rooster was a poor man and could not give him money he had to give him the rooster.

When he got the rooster, he started to his home and there he started dressing the rooster to eat it. As he was setting the table a dog came into the kitchen and eat the rooster so he went to the owner of the dog and told him what the dog had done and demanded either money for the rooster or the dog, so the owner not being able to pay for the rooster decided to give him the dog.

This time he wanted vengeance so he put the dog in a sack and walked towards the river where he dumped the dog, but the dog got out and ran back to his master. Not being satisfied, as he had not been able to drown the dog, he went to the owner again and demanded that he must have the dog, that it had run away from him. This time the son of the owner of the dog, loving the dog as he did put himself inside the sack and when the man had walked to the river he thought he would take the dog out of the sack and would tie him so that he could not swim out. But to his surprise when he opened the sack he found the little kid inside. Of course he could not do this to the kid so he had to let him go and seeing that every attempt was impossible, decided to buy another bag of peas with the other half of the penny he had left.

After all the trouble he had gone through he finally had to conform himself with the other half penny to buy some more peas.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

PLAY SONG--

AL ANIMO

Al animo, al ánimo, la fuente se rompió.
Al animo, al ánimo, mandarla a componer.

Al animo, al ánimo, no tenemos dinero,
Al ánimo, al ánimo, nosotros le daremos.

Al ánimo, al ánimo, con que se hace el dinero?
Al animo, al ánimo, con cáscaras de huevo.

Uri uri ura, la renia va a pasar.
La de alante corre mucho
Y la de atras se quedará.

This game is played similar to "London Bridge is falling down".

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

PLAY SONG--

MAMBRU

En Francia nació un nino
Que dolor, qué dolor, qué pena.
En Francia nacio un nino
De padre natural.
Que do re mi,
Que do re fa.
De padre natural.

Por no tener padrino
Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué pena.
Por no tener padrino
Mambru se ha de llamar.
Que do re mi,
Que do re fa.
Mambru se ha de llamar.

Mambru se fué a la guerra
Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué pena.
Mambru se fué a la gurra,
Y no se cuando vendrá.
Que do re mi,
Que do re fa
Y no se cuando vendrá.

PLAY SONG-- MAMBRU

Por ahí viene un paje
Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué pena
Por ahí viene un paje.
¿Que noticias traerá?
Que do re mi,
Que do re fa.
Que noticias traerá?

La noticia que trae,
Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué pena,
La noticia que trae:
Mambru se ha muerto ya.
Que do re mi,
Que do re fa.
Mambru se ha muerto ya.

La caja de terciopelo
Qué dolor, qué dolor, qué pena.
La caja de terciopelo,
Y la tapa de cristal.
Que do re mi,
Que do re fa.
Y la tapa de cristal.

PLAY SONG--MAMBRU

Y encima de la tapa
Que dolor, que dolor, que pena.
Y encima de la tapa,
Un pajarito va.
Que do re mi,
Que do re fa.
Un pajarito va.

Cantando el pio pio
Que dolor, que dolor, que pena.
Cantando el pio pio
Y el pio pio pa.
Que do re mi,
Que do re fa.
Y el pio pio pa.

When singing the above song, the children take hold of each other'a hands, forming a ring. Whenever they come to the part of "do re mi, do re fa" They free their hands, and slap to the accompaniment of the tune.
Then they join hands again and continue with the song.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CRADLE SONG

Este niño lindo que nació de día
Quiere que lo llevan a la dulcería.

Este niño lindo que nacio de noche.
Quiere que lo llevan a pasear en coche.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CHILDREN'S GAME

Pito, Pito colorito, donde vas tan gonito

A la cera verdadera, Pin, Pan bota fuera.

This game is played similar to "Hide and seek".

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CHILDREN'S GAME

La manzana se pasea

De la sala al comedor.

No me pinche con cuchillo,

Pínchame con tendor.

This game is played similar to "Hide and seek".

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CHILDREN'S GAMES

Al subir las escaleras,

Una pulga me picó,

La cojí por las orejas,

Y se me escapó.

This game is played similar to "Hide and seek".

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CHILDREN'S STORY

Pues señor este era un gato que
Tenía los pies de trapo y la
Cabeza al revés. ¿Quieresque te lo
Cuente otra vez?

This story is repeated over and over again if the child answers in the affirmative.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

RHYME--

LUNA LUNERA.

Luna lunera,
Gascabelera.
Cinco toritos,
Y una ternera.
Estaba la luna
Comiendo una tuna.
Estaba el sol
Comiendo una col.
Tírame la lima,
Tírame el limón,
Tirame la llave
De tu corazón.

Tampa Florida
February 1941

Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

RHYME--

PIPI SÍ GALLO

Pipi sí gallo
Montando a caballo
quita la mano
que te pica el gallo.

The last line is followed by trying to pinch the hand of the child.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

RHYME--

LA CARNECERIA

Cuando vayas a la carneceria,
No me traigas carne de aqui,
Ni de aqui, ni de aqui,
Ni de aqui, ni de aqui,
Sino de aqui, de aqui, de aqui.

This rhyme is started at the wrist until it reaches the arm-pit, and the last line is followed by tickling the child under arm-pit.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CRADLE SONG--

DUERMATE NIÑO LINDO

Duermate niño lindo

Que ahí viene el co--o--co,

Que ahí viene el co--o--co

A llevarse a los niños lindos

Que duermen po--o--o--co

Que duermen po--o--o--co.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CRADLE SONG--

ASSERRÍN, ASERRÁN.

Aserrín, aserrán
Los maderos de San Juan;
Los de Juan piden pan,
No se lo dan.
Los de Pedro piden queso,
Los de Enrique, alfenique.
Chiqui, chiqui, chiqui.

With the last line, the mother will tickle the child.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CRADLE SONG--

SEÑORA SANTANA

Señora Santana,
Porqué llora el niño?
Por una manzana
Que se le ha perdido.
Aquí traigo una,
Aquí traigo dos,
Una para el niño,
Y otra para vos.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CRADLE SONG--

DUERMATE NIÑO.

Duérmate niño
Que tengo que hacer,
Lavar los pañales,
Y ponerme a coser.

Duermate niño
Duermate ya
Que tu padre
Pronto vendrá.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

PLAY SONG--

CACUMBAMBE

Cacumbambe
La vieja Ines,
Fuma tabaco,
Y no toma cafe.

The children sing the above song as they go up and down on the seesaw.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

PLAY SONG--

AMAMBROCHA TO.

Amambrocha to, Matandile dile dile
Amambrocha to, Matandile dile dile.

Que quería Ud., Matandile dile dile?
Que quería Ud., Matandile dile don?

Yo quería una de sus hijas, Matandile dile dile
Yo quería una de sus hijas, Matandile dile don.

Cual de ellas Ud. queria, Matandile dile dile?
Cual de ellas Ud. queria, Matandile dile don?

Yo queria a Margarita, Matandile dile dile
Yo queria a Margarita, Matandile dile don.

Que oficio le va a poner, Matandile dile dile?
Que oficio le va a poner, Matandile dile don?

La pondremos a cocinera, Matandile dile dile
La pondremos a cocinera, Matamdile dile don?

Ese oficio no me agrada, Matandile dile dile
Ese oficio no me agrada, Matandile dile don.

La pondremos a maestra de escuela, Matandile dile dile
La pondremos a maestra de escula, Matandile dile dile.

PLAY SONG--CONT.

Ese oficio se me agrada, Matandile dile dile
Ese oficio se me agrada, Matandile dile don.

Le daremos la media vuelta,
Y la echaremos del balcón.
Le daremos la media vuelta,
Y la echaremos del balcón.

When the children get together to play the above song, they all line up on one side, with the exception of one. The song is started by the one who is facing the line of children, and as she sings the first two lines, she approaches the line, and comes back to her post. Then the line of children sing the second stanza while approaching the girl. The game continues like this until the first girl has adopted the "daughter". Then there are two on one side, and some six or seven on the other side (or as many as there are playing). While singing the last verse, they all join hands in a circle, turning around, while the adopted "daughter" stay in the center of the ring.

In the above song the name of Margarita has been used, but it varies according to the name of the girl who is adopted. Likewise with the "work" to be given the adopted daughter. As long as the work is not agreeable, the first girl continues calling out the names of different works, until one is given which is suitable.

The song continues until all the "daughters" of the original line of children are adopted, with the exception of one. Then it is reversed.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

FOLK STORY--

MR. RAT.

The following story is told little children when they commence to shed their baby teeth:

You will place that tooth under your pillow tonight when you go to bed. In the morning you will find that Mr. Rat has brought you some money for your teeth. With the teeth taht he gets, he builds himself a nice little house."

The amount of money "Mr. Rat" will bring is one penny, two pennies, or a nickel for each tooth. Sometimes the mother will tell the child that Mr. Perez mouse is the one who brings these pennies.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Wayne A. Blossom
Frank Castro

RHYME--

SANA, SANA.

Sana, sana,
Culito de rana.
Si no sana hoy
Sanará mañana.

The rhyme above is told to little children when they come to their mother with a hurt finger.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

PLAY SONG--

ME CASO MI MADRE

Me caso mi madre
Me caso mi madre
Chiquita y bonita
Ay ay ay.
Con un muchachito
que yo no queria
Ay ay ay.

A la media noche
A la media noche
El picaro se iba.
Ay ay ay.
Con capa terciopelada,
Y espada tendida.
Ay ay ay.

Le segui los pasos,
Le segui los pasos
Adonde iba.
Ay ay ay.
Ya le vi entrar
En casa la querida.
Ay ay ay.

Tampa Florida

PLAY SONG--CONT.

ME CASO MI MADRE

Me vine a mi casa
Me vine a mi casa
Triste y afligida.
Ay ay ay.
Triste y afligida.
Ay ay ay.

Me puse a fregar
Me puse a fregar
Fregar no podia.
Ay ay ay.
Me puse a planchar,
Planchar no podia.
Ay ay ay.

Me asome al balcon,
Me asome al balcon,
A ver si venia.
Ay ay ay.
A ver si venia.
Ay ay ay.

Todos que pasaban
Todos que pasaban
Se me parecian.
Ay ay ay.

PLAY SONG--CONT

Se me parecían.

Ay ay ay.

Ya le vi venir

Ya le vi venir

Por la calle arriba.

Ay ay ay.

Por la calle arriba.

Ay ay ay.

Venía diciendo

Venía diciendo

"Abrimos, María".

Ay ay ay.

Que vengo cansado

De buscar la vida.

Ay ay ay.

"Ya sé de donde vienes,

Ya sé de donde vienes;

De casa la querida.

Ay ay ay.

De casa la querida.

Ay ay ay.

Me pegó un cachete -- Me pego un cachete

Me dejó tendida.

Ay ay ay.

Me dejó tendida.

Ay ay ay.

PLAY SONG--CONT.

ME CASO MI MADRE

Llamad la justica
Llamad la justicia
Y la inquisición.
Ay ay ay.
Y la inquisicion.
Ay ay ay.

Que le meten preso
Que le meten preso
Por picaro y bribón.
Ay ay ay.
"Quedate con Dios, María
Boquita ha piñón".
Ay ay ay.

The girls sing the above song turning around in a circle while they are singing.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CRADLE SONG--

POLLITO

El pollito de la vecina
Que asadito sabe a gallina.

While the mother sings this little song to the child, she gently twists her hand from side to side. This is one of the first things the child is taught.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CRADLE SONG--

LAS TORTICAS DE MANTECA

Las torticas de manteca
Para mamá que da la teta.
Las torticas, los tortones,
Para papá que trae bonbones.

While the mother sings this, she claps the baby's hands. This taught along with the "pollito", and is always a source of pride to the mother when the baby is able to "twist his hands", or clap his hands while she sings either of the songs.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

PLAY SONG---

MARCELINO

Marcelino fué por vino
Rompió el jarro el camino.
Pobre jarro, pobre vino,
Pobre culo de Marcelino.

The children join hands, and thus form a circle. They start singing, and when they get to the last line, they all squat down. They then start the song all over again.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

PLAY SONG--

ARRE CABALLITO

Arro caballito
Vamos a Belén.
Que mañana es fiesta,
Y pasado también.

The father or mother will sing this song while rocking the child up and down on their knees.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

Folk STORY--

THE LITTLE MONKEY

Once upon a time there was a little monkey, and he decided to have a little fun. So he went to the barber shop and stole a pair of scissors. Then he cut off his tail into small pieces, and made some "Chicharrones." He placed them in a basket and went out into the streets singing:

"Chicharroncitos vendo yo
Muy sabrosito."

Soon a man called him, and purchased a nickel's worth. Many others bought this crackling meat, until he had none. So then he seated himself on top of a pole and started to sing:

"Chicharroncitos
Han comido
De mi rabito."

When the people heard this, they became very furious, and chased the little monkey all over town, throwing bricks at him.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Wayne A. Blossom
Frank Castro

FOLK SONG--

ISABEL

En Madrid hay una niña
Que le llaman Isabel.
Todos los dias de fiesta
La vestían de cropel.
Un dia estando jugando
Al juego de ajedrez
Vino un mozo se la llevó
Un mocito Aragonés.

Las cortinas de palacio
Son de terciopelo azul,
Y entre cortina y cortina
Se pasaba un Andaluz.
Porqué lloras hija mía?
Porqué llorás, Isabel?
Si lloras por padre y madre
No los volveras a ver;
Si lloras por tus hermanos
Prisoneros han de ser.
No lloro por nada de eso,
Ni por nada de interes.
Lloro por puñal de oro
Si me dices para que,
Para partir esta pera
que vengo murta de sed.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

FOLK SONG--

LA OBRERITA

Una tarde que alegre charlaba
Reía y cantaba canciones de amor.
Se le vió en el taller trabajando
Y al mundo ocultando su amargo dolar.

Eran muchas las trajedias de au vida,
Eran muchas miserias de su hogar.
Nadie supo que eran llanto sus canciones,
Ni tristeza, su amargura, su pesar.

El mar de amores fue su tormento
Que el sufrimiento la iba a matar.
A nadie dijo su amarga queja,
Solo su viejita la vió llorar.

Una tarde que alegre charlaba
Reía y cantaba su voz se apago.
Se llenaron de llanto sus ojos,
Y sus labios rojos la sangre tino.

FOLK SONG-- CONT.

LA OBRERITA

Y la sangre que brotaba de su herrida,
Fué reflejo de su pena y au dolor,
Fué reflejo por primero de su vida,
Fué reflejo de la historia de su amor.

Al mirar que estaba enferma Margarita,
Sus amigas le llevaron a su hogar.
Y allí vieron abrazar a su viejita,
Darle un beso y en sus brazos expirar.

Ya no se recuerdan de Margarita
La obrerita de aquel lugar,
Solo su madre ya muy viejita,
En la casita se ve llorar.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CRADLE SONG--

ARROJÓ, MI NIÑO

Arrojó, mi niño
Arrojó, mi amor
Arrojó, pedazo
De mi corazón.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

CRADLE SONG--

"MOZITA".

Azótate, la mozita,
Con la mano en la cabecita.

With the above song, the mother teaches the baby to gently strike his head with his hand.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

RHYME--

EL REY

Este era un rey
Que tenía una hijita.
La vistió de coloradito,
La metió en una botijita,
Y la echó al mar.
Quiere que te lo diga otra vez?

This is repeated as many times as the child continues saying "yes".

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank,Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

RHYME--

PANCHO CARANCHO

Pancho Carancho
Mató a su mujer
Con cinco palitos
Y un alfiler.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

MISS MARTINEZ COCKROACH AND MR. PEREZ MOUSE

Once upon a time Miss Martinez Cockroach was sweeping the floor of her house when she found a nickel. "What can I do with this nickel?" she said. "If I buy candy, I will soon eat it and then I will have no more". "If I buy bread, I will soon eat it". "If I buy a cake, I will soon eat it. Oh my, what will I do? I know. I will but me some flour".

So she went to the grocery store and bought herself some flour. Then she dug herself into the flour and came out white all over. Then she seated herself on the poarch. Pretty soon Mr. Goat came along. "How beautiful you are, Miss Martinez Cockroach! Do you want to marry me?" "Yes", said Miss Martinez Cockroach, "But how do you do:" "Baa Baa", said Mr. Goat. "Oh no! you frighten me". So Mr. Goat went away.

Pretty soon Mr. Cow passed by. "How beautiful you are, Miss Martinez Cockroach!' Do you want to marry me? "Yes" said Miss Martinez Cockroach, "but how do you do?" "Moo-Moo" said Mr. Cow. "Oh no! you frighten me". So Mr. Cow went away.

Pretty soon Mr. Dog passed by. "How beautiful you are!

Do you want to marry me?" "Yes", said Miss Martinez Cockroach. "but how do you do?" "Bow-wow" said Mr. Dog. "Oh no! you frighten me". So Mr. Dog went away.

Pretty soon Mr. Perez Mouse passed by. "How beautiful you are, Miss Martinez Cockroach! Do you want to marry me?" "Yes" said Miss Martinez Cockroach, "but how do you do?" "Wee-wee" said Mr. Perez Mouse. "Oh how good!" said Miss Martinez Cockroach, "I will marry you". So they were married.

One day Miss Martinez Cockroach had to go shopping, so she told Mr. Perez Mouse to watch the stew, but to be very careful and not look inside the pot as he might fall in. When she had left, Mr. Perez decided he would take just one little peep. When he looked inside, the stew smelled so good that he decided he would take one little sip. But when he was going to put in his nose, he fell over and was killed.

After a while Miss Martinez Cockroach came to the house. "Toon, Toon" she knocked at the door, but Mr. Perez Mouse did not come to open the door. Toon,Toon, she knocked again, but still no answer. She was getting frightened. Toon, Toon, she knocked louder, but still the door did not open. So she called Mr. Carpenter to open the door. Mr. Carpenter came along with his hammer and crowbar, and crashed the door down.

She ran to the kitchen, and when she looked into the pot, she saw Mr. Perez Mouse dead in the stew.

So she seated herself on the porch, and commenced to sing:

"Pobre ratoncito Perez
Cayō en la olla
Por la golocina
De una cebolla."

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

BROTHER ROOSTER AND BROTHER RAT

Brother Rooster invited Brother Rat to go with him and pick nuts. Upon reaching their place of destination, they were undecided as to which of them would pick the nuts from the trees, and which would stay on the ground and pack them into the bag.

Finally Brother Rooster was elected to climb the tree and pick the nuts. Brother Rooster started picking the nuts and throwing down to Brother Rat. As fast as Brother Rooster threw down the nuts, Brother Rat cracked the nuts eating the kernel and placing the empty shells into the bag. When he had filled up the bag with empty shells, he called up to Brother Rooster to come down.

When Brother Rooster came down he decided to eat a couple of nuts. However, he opened the bag and found only empty shells, he became so furious that he pecked Brother Rat's eye out.

Brother Rat was left with only one eye. As he was going down the road he met Mr. Dog, and asked him if he could give him some hair to cover the eye which Brother Rooster had pecked out. Mr. Dog said: "I cannot give you some hair unless you bring me some bread". Brother Rat said: "Where can I get some bread?" Mr. Dog said, " go to the Bakery

and the Bakery will give you some bread".

So Brother Rat went to the Bakery, and asked the Bakery to give him some bread to give Mr. Dog, so Mr. Dog could give some hair to cover the eye which Brother Rooster had pecked out. The Bakery said: "I cannot give you some bread unless you bring me some wood". Brother Rat said, "Where can I get some Wood?" The Bakery said: "go to the forest and the forest will give you some wood."

So Brother Rat went to the forest and saked the forest if he could give him some wood to give to the Bakery, so that the Bakery would give him some bread to give Mr. Dog, so that Mr. Dog could give him some hair to cover the eye which Brother Rooster pecked out. The forest said: "If you go to the Blacksmith and get an ax you may have some wood".

So Brother Rat went to the Blacksmith and asked him for an axe to cut some wood from the forest to give to the Bakery, so the Bakery would give him some bread to give to Mr. Dog, so Mr. Dog would give him some hair to cover the eye which Brother Rooster pecked out.

So the Blacksmith gave him the ax. With the ax he went to the forest and chopped some wood. He carried the wood to the Bakery. The Bakery gave him some bread. He carried the bread to Mr. Dog, Mr. Dog gave him somd hair, and he covered the eye which Brother Rooster pecked out.

Tampa Florida
February 1941
Frank Castro
Wayne A. Blossom

FOLK SONG--

UNA MAÑANA EN SAN JUAN

Una mañana en San Juan
Se levanta el Conde nino
A darle agua a su caballo
A las orillas del mar.

Mientras su caballo bebio
Él se ponía a cantar
Y las aves que pasaban
Se ponían a escuchar.

La reina llama a su niña
-Nina, levanta a escuchar
Y verás que lindas cantan
Las sirenitas del mar.

-Madre no son las sirenitas
Las que tu oyes cantar
Es el Conde Benadillo,
Con quien yo me he de casar.

Si tu te casas con él
Lo mandaré a matar
Si Vd. lo manda a matar
Yo viva no he de quedar.

FOLK SONG--

UNA MAÑANA EN SAN JUAN

A los tres días siguientes
Lo mandaron a matar
Él acaba de morir
Ella acaba de expirar.

Ella se volvió una paloma
Él se volvió un gavilán
Y fueron a hacer su nido
A lsa orillas del mar.

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